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[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2017/L.24)*]

2017/8. United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2013/12 of 22 July 2013, 2014/10 of 13 June 2014, 2015/8 of 9 June 2015 and 2016/5 of 2 June 2016 on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,

Recalling also the commitments included in the 2011 political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[1] the 2014 outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases[2] and the proposed actions set out in the World Health Organization Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020,[3]

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which includes non-communicable disease-related targets,

Acknowledging that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases, principally cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which are linked to one or more of the four main risk factors, namely, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world and threatens the achievement of internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing that pollution, including air pollution, may exacerbate the risk of non-communicable chronic diseases,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution 68/300.

[3] World Health Organization, document WHA66.2013/REC/1, annex 4.

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Noting the progress made by the Task Force in the execution of its mandate, including the undertaking of joint programming missions to a number of countries, and in the development of four global joint programmes to support national efforts to address cervical cancer; enhance the capacity, mechanisms and mandates of relevant authorities in facilitating and ensuring action across governmental sectors; increase access to cost-effective cancer screening programmes; and promote the use of information and communications technologies to prevent and control non-communicable diseases,

Noting with concern that the four global joint programmes developed by the Task Force remain unfunded to date,

Recalling the model policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference, which was developed in the context of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,[4]

Recalling also that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development [5] recognizes that, as part of a comprehensive strategy of prevention and control, price and tax measures on tobacco can be an effective and important means to reduce tobacco consumption and health-care costs and represent a revenue stream for financing for development in many countries,

Recalling further that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda reiterates that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases[6] and the recommendations contained therein, including to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2018 on progress made in implementing Council resolution 2013/12;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the support provided by Member States with regard to the work of the Task Force, including through the activities of an informal group of States working to assist the Task Force in the execution of its mandate;

3. *Notes* the initiative to hold, in Montevideo from 18 to 20 October 2017, a global conference on non-communicable diseases on the theme "Enhancing policy coherence between different spheres of policymaking that have a bearing on attaining target 3.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals on non-communicable diseases by 2030";

4. *Welcomes* the financial or in-kind support provided by Member States[7] and international development partners for the work of the Task Force;

5. *Recognizes* that the requests in its resolution 2016/5 for members of the Task Force to provide support to Member States to reflect the non-communicable disease-related targets included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[8] in national development plans and policies cannot be fulfilled with the current resources;

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2302, No. 41032.

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

[6] E/2017/54.

[7] Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

[8] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

6. *Urges* national Governments, the private sector as appropriate, and bilateral and multilateral donors, including the World Bank and regional development banks, to explore financing for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mobilizing the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained resources for the programmatic work of the Task Force, including the four global joint programmes, in order to scale up Task Force support to Member States;

7. *Urges* bilateral and multilateral donors to strengthen international cooperation and development assistance to support efforts to build sufficient capacity in developing countries, in particular with regard to legal, fiscal and regulatory systems, including for evidence-based strategies such as taxation and/or innovative financing options, with the objective of developing and implementing multisectoral responses for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

8. *Calls upon* the members of the Task Force to raise awareness about the burden of non-communicable diseases and the links with poverty and sustainable development, in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and about opportunities to accelerate progress in reducing their burden, including through enhancing cooperation with existing goodwill ambassadors, envoys, global advocates, eminent persons and local champions;

9. *Encourages* the thematic working groups to place greater emphasis on, and make further progress towards, addressing additional contributing factors to the rising incidence and prevalence of non-communicable diseases, including economic, social, environmental and behavioural determinants of health, and, where relevant, to coordinate this work among their respective institutions, in particular with regard to addressing the impacts of air pollution on health;

10. *Encourages* members of the Task Force, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, to develop and implement their own policies on preventing tobacco industry interference, bearing in mind the model policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference, in order to ensure a consistent and effective separation between the activities of the United Nations system and those of the tobacco industry;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its 2018 session on progress achieved in implementing resolution 2013/12, under the sub-item entitled "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases" of the item entitled "Coordination, programme and other questions", in preparation for a comprehensive review by the General Assembly, in 2018, of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

31st plenary meeting
7 June 2017